during the year 1995-96. The Powerloom Sector is not facing financial problems as per information made available by the Government of Maharashtra.

Import restrictions imposed by developed countries on Indian garments

1929. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether exports of Indian garments, hosieries and fabrics, have been suffering from various import restrictions imposed by different developed countries including the USA, during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of the import restrictions imposed by them, indicating the grounds for such restrictions; and

(c) the steps taken during the last three years to have such restrictions removed, through international fora like the WTO and others and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) There are quantitative rstrictions on exports of certain textile and garment items from India to the U.S.A., the European Community Countries, Canada and Norway. These restrictions had been imposed under the Multi Fibre Arrangement and are now continuing under the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) of the WTO.

Under the provisions of the ATC, the abovenamed countries, applying quantitative restrictions on textile imports, have to integrate all textile products into the GATT, in a phased manner, by 1.1.2005.

Promoting Cotton Production in the Country

1930. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to promote the production in cotton mills in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government to promote productions of cotton in accordance with the domestic demands of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme (TMFS) was implemented in the VII Plan to encourage modernisation in the textile industry in the country. Textile Research Associations, which are assisted by Government, also provide relevant service and assistance to textile mills in the area of improving quality and productivity.

(c) An Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture in cotton growing States. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) also supplements the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and State Governments and it undertakes extension and developmental activities to help cotton growers.

Exploration of Ground Water

1931. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has undertaken excavation work to explore ground water reserves during the last three years;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the names of those low water table areas in Madhya Pradesh where tubewells